

Indianapolis History: Free, Open, and Online

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General tips:

- 1) Begin with cumulative sources like the Digital Public Library of America or Indiana Memory.
- 2) Indianapolis specific: To find Indianapolis specific items within most of the collections below, go to *Advanced Search* and *limit the search to either Coverage or Geographic Location* (or similar).

Find results with:

in

- 3) Visit each Indiana specific institution website below to see exhaustive lists of collections. There are unexpected treasures to be found!
- 4) When you search the full text of any historic document, particularly newspapers, remember to consider and search by the language of the time period.
- 5) Remember this session focused solely on directly available, free online sources. Each institution is rich with Indianapolis history collections, subscription based digital resources, and research collection experts that can be accessed with an in person visit.
- 6) Google search, Wikipedia? Absolutely! Give it a try. These broad tools are often great at leading you to institutions like those listed below.
- 7) Stumbling about WILL occur. Digitization makes this process easier in some respects but it's still a hunt!!
- 8) If you are affiliated with or visiting IUPUI, check out subscription based resources:
<http://iupui.campusguides.com/c.php?g=260315&p=1739018>

Local

Cemetery Records from the Genealogical Society of Marion County <https://genealogyindy.org/cemeteryRecords.php>

Cumulative searchable burial information for cemeteries across Marion County. Also try the national resources Find A Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/index.html>

Digital Mayoral Archives <http://uindy.historyit.com/index.php>

From the University of Indianapolis, primarily historical documents related to Indianapolis's civic, governmental, and urban development. Includes but is not limited to content regarding: UniGov; Bringing the Colts to Indianapolis; and Mayors Bulen, Lugar, Hudnut, and Goldsmith.

Hoosier State Chronicles <https://newspapers.library.in.gov>

Full text searchable historic newspapers from across Indiana.

Indiana Memory <https://digital.library.in.gov>

Historical photos, letters, postcards, posters, books, maps, etc. from across Indiana.

Indiana Album <http://indianaalbum.pastperfectonline.com/search>

From a unique collection of Indiana related photos and other ephemera not originally housed in institutions but instead from individuals' personal collections.

Indiana Historical Society <http://images.indianahistory.org>

The Indiana History Center/Indiana Historical Society collects historical documents connected to all Indiana history with over 23,000 scans and growing related to Indianapolis history. Example collections include the Bass Photos (historic images of Indianapolis buildings and homes); Crispus Attucks High School; and Bethel AME Church; Indianapolis Fire Station Photos and much more.

Indianapolis Public Library <http://www.digitalindy.org>

Focusing solely on Indianapolis entities including schools, arts and culture, civics, community, and general Indianapolis history. Example include: Yearbooks from Indianapolis high schools; Dance Kaleidoscope; Children's Museum; Heartland Film Festival; the Burmese American Community Institute and much more.

IUPUI Digital Collections <http://ulib.iupui.edu/collections>

The majority of IUPUI's digital collections are in collaboration with Indianapolis organizations and are also included in either Indiana Memory, DPLA, or Hoosier State Chronicles. Collections of particular note include: Indianapolis Sanborn Map and Baist Atlas Collection; Indianapolis Speedway; Indianapolis Recorder; Indianapolis City Directories; Historic Landmarks; and much more.



Indianapolis in Maps: Now and Then <http://hdl.handle.net/1805/640>

Curriculum and resources for conducting an Indianapolis Sanborn Map lesson in your classroom or workshop.

PALNI (Private Academic Library Network of Indiana) <http://replica.palni.edu/cdm/>

Collections from two private Indianapolis universities, Marian and Butler. Searching the entire PALNI network will return useful results. Content is primarily related to history and material related to PALNI schools including school newspapers

Indiana Digital Archives <https://secure.in.gov/apps/iara/search/>

From the Indiana State Archives, a variety of searchable indexes including: Photo records; Institutional records (asylums, prisons, hospitals, schools, etc.); Military records; Court records; Naturalization records.

Indexes from the Indiana State Library <http://www.in.gov/library/databases.htm>

A variety of searchable indexes including Indiana Marriage Index and Indianapolis Newspaper Index covering 1848-1991. More on birth and death records in Indiana: <http://www.in.gov/library/files/Indiana%20BMD%20records.pdf>.

Proceedings of the Indianapolis Common Council and City-County Council <http://journals.iupui.edu/index.php/ccci>

Full text, searchable Proceedings dating from 1839-2003. It chronicles the growth of Indianapolis from a time when it was a town of less than 3,000 people to its present status.

National/International

American Memory <https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

From the Library of Congress's collections, written and spoken words, sound recordings, still and moving images, prints, maps, and sheet music that document the American experience.

Chronicling America <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

From the Library of Congress, America's historic newspaper pages from 1789-1924. Newspapers found within Hoosier State Chronicles are included in this resource.



Chronicling Hoosier <http://centerfordigschol.github.io/chroniclinghoosier/>

Research that reuses the full text data from Chronicling America newspapers to better understand the use and development of the word hoosier over time and across geographies.

Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) <https://dp.la>

Digital historical photos, letters, postcards, posters, books, maps, etc. from across the globe but primarily the United States. Also contains lessons plans for classroom use and downloadable data for reapplication.



Serendip-o-matic <http://serendip-o-matic.com>

An application built on DPLA content that inspires unexpected research leads.

Internet Archive <https://archive.org>

Includes historic images and full text searchable texts (history books, city directories).

Google Books <https://books.google.com>

Full text searchable and often full text access to millions of published books and periodicals.